results.—A resolution (with a slight addition to it by Lord Morpeth) was proposed by Mr. R. L. Jones, and carried:—"That a communication be made to the Water Companies, to ascertain how far they are willing to comply with the wish of this court to supply daily the whole of the courts and alleys in this district with water."

Lord Ebrington was sworn in as a Commissioner for Sewers south of the river Thames.

The surveyors then presented a report, shewing—

	Feet.	Cubic yards.
"Length of sewers flushed, and reported to the court	76,826	21,313
"Since then the sewers in 171 streets, courts, and places, have had the deposit flushed away in the Westminster, Surrey and Kent, and Tower Hamlets divisions, being a length of	59,461	9,858
"Total	136,287	31,170

"The cost of flushing this quantity of deposit from sewers has averaged rather less than one-third what it would have cost to raise it to the surface, and cart it away. The cleansing public cesspools and courts and alleys has, according to the directions of the commissioners, been carried on in those situations which appeared to require prompt attention; and both for this purpose, and for flushing the sewers, the various water companies have afforded the most liberal assistance of men and water."

Miscellanea.

Free Admission to Public Monuments.—It seems that the churchwardens of Manchester have lately set an example to other authorities, those at St. Paul's Cathedral especially, by throwing open their fine cathedral at all times, "without restriction," to those who are desirous to examine it. Certainly we do not recollect at Manchester, that species of licensed imposition, in the shape of a dodging verger, met with at almost every other church in England, which is so serious a tax upon all who are interested in examining the fine architectural works of the country. But in appointing an attendant to show visitors through the building, although our information says "gratuitously," we fear the churchwardens have taken the very means to impose the tax which we may suppose it was their object to guard against. We do not see why the plan, partially carried out at Westminster Abbey, of having attendants perambulating the different parts of the building, and of inscribing the names of the monuments upon cards hung upon the walls in different parts, should not be found sufficient for the protection of the edifice, as it would certainly tend far more to the pleasure and advantage of the visitors. Any thing like the jealousy, and the imposition practised, at York Cathedral, which has not been of the slightest efficacy in preventing the most lamentable catastrophes, where some years since we could not look through an iron gate without being expected to pay for it, where, when we had shown our competency to do what was "handsome," we were hurried through the choir at a pace which made the inspection rather a pain than a pleasure, and where our respectful solicitation to the Dean for permission to examine more completely, was met with a gruff denial,—any thing like this, we say, is to be deprecated; but we should be amongst the first to urge the most careful arrangements for the preservation of structures, which have too often suffered from the spoliation of those whose tastes and pursuits should have led to a different mode of seeking their gratification. For example, at Beverley, where, the last time we were there, we were allowed to wander about in whatever direction it pleased us, although we found the advantage, we could not help noticing many a missing finial and crocket, which we heard, had disappeared at some time little antecedent to our visit. Perfect conservation of the remarkable works of architecture which the country possesses, should be provided for at all times, but perfect freedom of access to them should be demanded as a right, by the people of England. Whether this access is or is not to be had on the continent, we think it quite unnecessary to take into consideration.

Books and Periodicals may be sent by post after the 21st inst., in open covers, by pre-paying, if not exceeding one pound in weight, 6d.; exceeding one pound, and not exceeding two, 1s.; and for every additional pound, an additional 6d.

The State of Henry VIIth's Chapel.—Sir,—My attention was recently engaged by an article which appeared in your magazine a few weeks ago, in which notice was taken of the state of the exterior of Henry VIIth's chapel at Westminster. I had not visited the chapel since the commencement of the external repairs, completed, I think, about fifteen years ago, but interested by the article referred to, and being lately in the neighbourhood of the abbey, I resolved to see for myself how far the judgment of the writer might be borne out by the observations of an attentive (albeit, unscientific) observer. Truly grieved was I to find his remarks agree so truly as they do with the external aspect of this beautiful mausoleum. I do, indeed, believe with the writer, "that unless some means are taken to stay the progress of decay in the exterior stonework of the structure, in twenty years it will be a ruin." Casting our eye upwards from the basis of several of the buttresses on the side nearest St. Margaret's Church, with a favourable light, it will be seen that the whole of the stonework, in three large compartments, is one mass of decay, the surface of it, at least. The features of many of the images are completely effaced, and the fretwork of the windows is in so crumbling a condition that it appears as though the mere pressing a hand over it would remove it entirely. I hope the attention of all who are interested in the preservation of this fine national monument, architects, and particularly gentlemen versant in chemical combinations, will be directed to the subject of this premature decay in stonework. It is highly probable that, with the increased means and improved knowledge at the command of the scientific body of the present day, some combination of mineral substances may be invented which will amalgamate with the material of the stone, so as to render further action of the elements on its surface impossible, or nearly so.—Edward Penrice.

Improvements in Bell-hanging.—A patent has been obtained by Mr. W. P. Parker, of Lime-street, for an improved arrangement of bells in hotels, mansions, &c., by which, whatever number of rooms there may be, one bell will suffice: and the particular room is indicated by a corresponding number appearing on the face of the machine. A contemporary gives the following notion of the arrangement. A suitable bed, or foundation plate, is made of a size corresponding to the number of rooms, in which are grooves cut in a horizontal direction; in these grooves, bars, consisting of strips of metal properly secured by studs, slide; they are connected with suitable cranks and levers, in such manner, that when pulled backwards they immediately raise a hammer which strikes the bell; and they are, on the bell-pull being released, drawn back into their places by barrel springs. On the face of the foundation-plate, which is the part exhibited to view, numbers are painted, corresponding with the several rooms, cabins, &c., each covered with a semicircular piece of sheet metal, moving on a pivot in the centre of the cord of the arc in such a manner, that when the circular part is upward, the figure is covered; but when one of the bars is pulled back in the groove, it draws down the semicircular shield, and discloses the figure at the same instant the bell is struck: on being released, the bar is replaced in its original position, and the shield resumes its place over the number.

Monument to Washington in New York.—A plan for a monument to Washington being wanted, it has been suggested to erect a building of a spherical form, "say 500 feet in diameter, without external columns or any other support of the kind, for these would destroy its simplicity, but resting on a pedestal, in which the lower part should be so far imbedded as to give to the structure both the reality and appearance of complete and immovable firmness in its position." Some of our readers will remember a similar proposal at the competition for the Nelson monument. An American writer says,—"For its uses, it might be the receptacle of a colossal image of the great man to whose memory it is raised; the interior might be fashioned into the noblest amphitheatre which the world ever saw, with rows of seats rising on every side, overvaulted by a vast canopy, under which almost the entire population of the city might assemble on public occasions, with the statue of the father of his country looking down upon them. For the cost, the simplicity of its construction would make it cheaper than any other building of the same magnitude. It cannot cost more than it would to execute the complicated plan, loaded with ornaments and carvings, which the committee on the monument are said at one time to have made up their minds to adopt. The interior might be built of stone or iron, and the outside sheathed with copper to protect it from the injuries of the weather." The "spherical church," of which we gave a notice some time ago, will occur to our readers.

Time! Time!—Sir: I do not think you handle the matter of uniform time in your usual accurate manner. You seem to think the *true time* at a place a precious jewel that ought to be most carefully guarded. However, you ought to know that the professor at Edinburgh does not set his sidereal clocks by the town or station clock. He uses a measure of time quite different from that in use for the every day purposes of life; namely, sidereal. The length of a sidereal day is 23h. 56m. 4s. of mean time: that of the mean solar being of course 24h. In one case the day commences and ends with the transit of the first point of Aries over the meridian; in the other, it depends on the motion of an imaginary sun. So far as I am aware, no clock was ever constructed to shew true solar time. Have you never seen "clock too fast" or "clock too slow" in the almanacs? This refers to the equation of time, which is the difference between *true* and *mean* solar time. There are certain days when, in order to set your time-piece right, you must put it so much as fifteen or sixteen minutes before or behind the sun-dial. The necessity for this correction arises from the variable angular velocity of the earth about the sun, and to the obliquity of the ecliptic, as is well known. In fact, we have for years had our operations of dining, rising, and retiring guided by a measure of time varying very considerably from true time. We have done tolerably well, and I think the advantages of a little farther tinkering will not do much harm practically to any one. Great Britain is nicely placed for such an experiment. We will talk of uniform time for the colonies when we get a railway to them.—"Sheffield."

New House of Correction, City.—The plans for the new House of Correction, to be built at Holloway, under Mr. Bunning, have received the approval of the Secretary of State. The cost of the building is estimated at 80,000*l*. The following is the official description:—The main central building of the prison consists of four wings, radiating from a central hall, each wing being 115 feet in length by 48 feet in breadth. These four wings are constructed with 288 sleeping cells, with galleries of communication throughout. In the basement are arranged the kitchen department, store-rooms, baths, punishment-cells, and the arrangements for ventilating and warming. A wing on the right entrance is arranged with fifty-six sleeping cells for females, in three storys, with galleries of communication, and on the basement are the punishment-cells, reception-cells, and space for warming and ventilating this portion of the prison. On the left of the entrance is a wing corresponding with the above, for juveniles. A detached infirmary, with distinct and separate accommodation for males and females. The building includes a separate washing establishment, a dwelling for the governor, a dwelling for the chaplain, and will hold—males, 228; females, 56; juveniles, 56—total, 400.

Cambridge Architectural Society.—A meeting of this society was held on the 5th inst., to receive the report of the committee, &c., which set forth that the prospects of the society were good. A design by Mr. Wailes, for "The Bachelors' and Undergraduates' window," at Ely, was exhibited. The estimated expenses are 500*l*., of which little more than 200*l*. have been as yet subscribed.

Franklin's Gift to American Mechanics.—Dr. Franklin left a sum of money to the town of Boston, to be loaned to young married mechanics at a low interest. In December last it had accumulated to the sum of 40,465 dollars: also, 1,000 dollars, the interest on which is invested in silver medals, and distributed, at the annual examination of the schools, among the most deserving boys in the writing and grammar departments.

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